

_nat Application No PCT/EP 03/03280

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) $IPC \ 7 \ G06F$

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	KOSKY A S ET AL: "Exploring heterogeneous biological databases: tools and applications" ADVANCES IN DATABASE TECHNOLOGY - EDBT'98. 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXTENDING DATABASE TECHNOLOGY PROCEEDINGS, ADVANCES IN DATABASE TECHNOLOGY - EDBT'98 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXTENDING DATABASE TECHNOLOGY PROCEEDINGS, VALENCIA, SPAIN, 'Online! pages 499-513, XP002235570 1998, Berlin, Germany, Springer-Verlag, Germany ISBN: 3-540-64264-1 Retrieved from the Internet: <url:http: 0558="" 1377="" 13770499.pdf="" link="" link.springer.de="" papers="" series="" service=""> 'retrieved on 2003-03-19! abstract -/</url:http:>	1-47

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed	To later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 May 2003	Date of mailing of the International search report 04/06/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Denoual, M



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	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages		Relevant to claim No.
	page 503, line 38 -page 507, line 15 page 508, line 24 -page 509, line 12		
X	US 5 241 648 A (HEDGES RICHARD W ET AL) 31 August 1993 (1993-08-31) abstract column 2, line 3 -column 3, line 35 column 4, line 28 -column 5, line 37		1-47
X	WO 01 01294 A (TOPALOGLOU THODOROS ;GENE LOGIC INC (US)) 4 January 2001 (2001-01-04) page 16, line 26 -page 17, line 6		1-47
A	US 5 701 460 A (KAPLAN DAVID L ET AL) 23 December 1997 (1997-12-23) abstract column 1, line 46 -column 4, line 7 column 15, line 45-62 claims 1-23		1-47



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